(b) The State Governments have to send Project Concept Note/ Preliminary Project Report through the concerned line Ministries Jo the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). The project of the State Government should fall within the Plan priorities and have the necessary clearances. Thereafter, considering the overall priorities, DEA poses the project to suitable development partner.

(c) to (f) The progress of externally-aided projects is regularly monitored by the project implementation authorities, State Governments and the concerned Administrative Central Ministries/Departments. Department of Economic Affairs also monitors the projects periodically for which a Project Management Unit has been established in the Department of Economic Affairs.

Outstanding dues of Banks against States

*378. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dues of certain Nationalized Banks are outstanding against some State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, till date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the dues remaining outstanding; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for recovery of the said dues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Banks do not lend directly to State Governments. However, they invest in State Government securities and State Government guaranteed bonds issued by the State Government entities, and lend to the public undertakings/corporate bodies/autonomous entities, with or without the guarantee of State Governments, RBI has reported that while there has been no default in SLR Bonds issued by State Governments, some nationalized banks have informed about actual/proposed unilateral reduction in interest rates/pre payment of State Government guaranteed bonds and some dues guaranteed by State Government, in view of the financial position of State Governments/their entities.

(d) Banks have taken steps for recovery of their dues from the defaulting entities of the State Governments in accordance with their recovery policies and RBI guidelines which provide for restructuring of loans, One Time Settlement of dues, filing of cases in Courts/Debt Recovery Tribunals, etc.

Drainage of rain water in N.E. Region

*379. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the quantity of